

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT FLASH

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 171004

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PINT, LE, IS, SY, UNSC

SUBJECT: CRISIS IN LEBANON

REF: STATE 170441, BEIRUT 3763 AND 3765

1. YOU SHOULD SEE TUENI AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT
AND SHARE WITH HIM OUR FOLLOWING THOUGHTS ON THE LEBANESE
SITUATION, RELATING IT AS APPROPRIATE TO WHATEVER CONVER-
SATIONS YOU HAVE HAD WITH LEBANESE OFFICIALS IN CARRYING
OUT INSTRUCTIONS.

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2. IN EVENT CURRENT CEASEFIRE DOES NOT HOLD OR IS INEFFECTIVE,
PREFERRED STEP WOULD BE A MEETING OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL,
WHICH WOULD PURSUE THREE OBJECTIVES: (A) CALL FOR IMMEDIATE
AND EFFECTIVE CEASEFIRE IN BEIRUT; (B) CALL ON ALL OUTSIDE STATES
TO REFRAIN FROM ANY ACTIONS WHICH MIGHT PROLONG OR WIDEN THE
CONFLICT; AND (C) REQUEST TO

THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO REPORT ON POSSIBLE MEASURES TO RESTORE PEACE AND SECURITY IN BEIRUT. RATIONALE FOR MEETING WOULD BE EXTREME GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION AND POSSIBILITY OF DISSOLUTION OF THE LEBANESE STATE AND/OR A NEW GENERAL WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

3. IN SITUATION OF RENEWED CONFLICT WE BELIEVE IT WOULD

BE BEST IF LEBANON AGREED TO REQUEST SC MEETING. IF GOL SHOULD FEEL IT COULD NOT DO THIS BUT COULD SUPPORT MEETING CALLED BY OTHERS, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO REQUEST MEETING, EITHER ALONE OR JOINTLY WITH OTHERS.

4. IN EVENT CEASEFIRE BREAKS DOWN, WE BELIEVE SC ACTION WOULD BE RESTRICTED TO EFFORT TO END FIGHTING. OTHERWISE, DEBATE COULD BECOME BOGGED DOWN OVER NATURE AND/OR DESIRABILITY OF LARGER UN ROLE. NEVERTHELESS, WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT TO BEGIN THINKING BEYOND THE QUESTION OF MAINTAINING OR RENEWING THE CEASEFIRE. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED TO HAVE REACTION OF TUENI OR OTHER GOL OFFICIALS TO THE POSSIBILITY OF STEPS TO DISARM THE CITY OF BEIRUT OR TO ENCOURAGE THE DEPARTURE FROM THE CITY OF ALL PRIVATE ARMED GROUPS. IN EVENT THAT HAPPENED, PROBLEM WOULD BE CHRISTIAN DISTRUST OF SYRIAN FORCES WHO WOULD REMAIN AS GUARDIANS OF LAW AND ORDER. PERHAPS THE UN COULD PLAY A USEFUL ROLE, JOINTLY WITH GOL AND ADF, BY SERVING AS
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MONITOR OF ADF TO ENCOURAGE IMPARTIALITY. PROVIDED CITY DISARMED, NUMBER OF UN OBSERVERS FOR THE PURPOSE WOULD BE SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED. RESULT WOULD BE PROTECTION FOR BEIRUT CITIZENS, A MAJOR PORTION OF LEBANESE POPULATION.

5. FINALLY, WE HOPE GOL (AND SYRIANS) UNDERSTAND THAT WE WOULD NOT INTEND THAT ANY SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION SHOULD UNBALANCE THE LEBANESE SITUATION IN FAVOR OF ONE OR ANOTHER PARTY. WE HOPE THAT THE LEBANESE WOULD VIEW OUR MOVE AS BEING IN THEIR OWN BEST INTERESTS AND NOT AS SOMETHING AIMED AT FURTHER ENHANCEMENT OF ANY OUTSIDE STATE'S ROLE IN LEBANESE AFFAIRS. VANCE

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